



USAID Assistance for the Philippines

USAID assists Philippine partners in four areas:

- (1) Economic reform and governance
- (2) Conflict resolution in Mindanao
- (3) Family planning, maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS and infectious diseases
- (4) Environmental governance and energy

USAID/Philippines also responds to humanitarian emergencies such as natural disasters.

ECONOMIC REFORM AND GOVERNANCE

Purpose: Improve prospects for combating corruption, attracting investment and resuming poverty reduction

Corruption mitigation: Institutions, Policies and Practices Made Transparent and Accountable. USAID is assisting in improving efficiency, transparency and accountability of institutions in the management of the enabling environment for investment. Ongoing and planned activities include:

- Strengthening management at the Bureau of Internal Revenue
- Modernizing import valuation and other operations at the Bureau of Customs, consistent with the WTO agreement
- Reform of corrupt practices in the stock market through strengthening of the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission
- Improving transparency and efficiency of government procurement
- Strengthening and enforcement of commercial law through the Department of Justice and the courts
- Improving transparency and accountability of banking institutions and addressing money laundering issues

Corruption Mitigation: Competitive Barriers to Development of Infrastructure and Trade Removed. USAID is helping to level the playing field and make government regulations more transparent and accountable. This will allow for expanded and efficient private and public investment, full participation in the multilateral trade system, and expanded job creation.

- USAID is providing assistance to improve the competition and regulatory framework for ports, shipping, aviation, power, roads, information and communication technology, and grains marketing. Support for these initiatives also includes assistance for public information for constituency

building, engagement of civil society and local governments for advocacy and monitoring, the legal framework for policy reforms, and the judiciary for enforcement.

- USAID is helping to implement activities under the WTO framework for grains sector reform, biotechnology, customs valuation, intellectual property rights, plant variety protection, and sanitary and phytosanitary measures. Support for these initiatives also includes assistance for public information for constituency building, engagement of civil society and local governments for advocacy and monitoring, the legal framework for policy reforms, and the judiciary for enforcement.

MINDANAO

Purpose: Accelerate the economic transformation of the Philippines' poorest region, Mindanao, and support the Peace Process.

Trade and Investment Growth. Through its Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program, USAID is carrying out a wide range of activities aimed at accelerating economic growth on Mindanao and ensuring that as many of Mindanao's 18 million people as possible benefit from the economic growth. GEM's current areas of emphasis are helping establish or strengthen business support organizations that provide advocacy and other services for Mindanao's key business sectors; bringing about the sound introduction or widespread expansion of production and marketing of a number of agricultural or aquacultural commodities that offer particular promise for Mindanao; and addressing the problems that threaten the long term viability of Mindanao's fishing industry.

Strengthening Peace in Mindanao. Through its Livelihood Enhancement and Peace (LEAP) Program, (and LEAP's predecessor programs), USAID has assisted some 13,000 former MNLF combatants to become commercial level producers of corn, rice, or seaweed. We anticipate assisting up to an additional 10,000 former combatants through LEAP. USAID will also be strengthening governance in Muslim areas of Mindanao through decentralization and anti-corruption programs.

Microfinance. USAID is working with large numbers of Rural Banks and credit cooperatives in Mindanao to assist those institutions to develop the capability to profitably serve the microenterprise market.

HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING

Purpose: Reduce fertility rate and improve maternal and child health, and prevent the rapid increase of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases.

Family Planning in the Public Sector. GOP health facilities provide contraceptives and counseling to 70% of the family

planning users in the country. USAID assistance improves the quality and reach of services provided by GOP health facilities. Working with the DOH and local governments, USAID supports the Matching Grants Program and the Sentrong Sigla Movement to improve client access to quality family planning services at the rural health units and the barangay health stations nationwide.

Private Sector Promotion. The role of the private sector in the delivery of family planning services has remained virtually untapped. USAID is helping expand private sector participation in family planning promotion and service delivery. USAID supports the FriendlyCare Foundation and the Well-Family Midwife Network of clinics providing affordable quality primary health care and family planning services to the working poor.

Contraceptive Interdependence Initiative. Towards a sustainable supply of contraceptives, USAID will work with the DOH, the private sector and other donors to determine the best strategy for ensuring contraceptive security in the Philippines. This effort is critical given data from the 2000 census, which counted the population at 76.5 million and reported that the annual population growth rate has increased from 2.32 percent in 1995 to 2.36 percent in 2000.

Advocacy and Behavior Change. A strong health care service delivery program, including family planning, requires a strong enabling environment. USAID is taking the lead in advocacy and policy formulation and implementation that will lead to greater access to and better acceptance of family planning and maternal and child health services.

Infectious Diseases and HIV/AIDS. The Philippines has one of the highest prevalence rates of TB in the world. USAID is carrying out an infectious disease program to control the incidence of TB, as well as dengue and malaria. USAID is also combating the growing complacency regarding the threat of HIV/AIDS by supporting the monitoring of HIV/AIDS cases and education efforts to groups at highest risk of contracting the disease.

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Purpose: Sustainable use of natural resources and improved environmental management and enforcement.

Environmental Governance. USAID will strengthen the ability of national and local government units and communities to address critical threats to the country's forests and coastal resources, including over-fishing and use of destructive fishing practices, illegal logging and conversion of natural forests, and solid waste management. USAID will promote good governance – transparency and accountability – in enforcing environmental laws. A special emphasis will be placed on assisting Muslim communities in Mindanao.

- *Improved Environmental Policies.* Key national and local organizations will be supported in their efforts to identify, analyze and improve priority policies.
- *Institution Building.* LGUs and communities will receive training and follow-on technical assistance in improving the

management of coastal resources, forests and solid waste. Training will also be provided for the judicial sector and others, such as provincial and local government staff, to equip them to better enforce environmental laws. USAID will also support training on the management of hazardous wastes and technologies to reduce industrial pollution.

- *Environmental Advocacy.* Informational activities will be carried out to inform the public on key policy issues, and to build the political will to improve environmental management and enforcement.

Energy and Environment. USAID is supporting an open, competitive market for generating and distributing electricity, expanding the use of renewable energy, and reducing vehicle emissions, by improving policies, strengthening regulatory capabilities, promoting private sector participation, and building public support for new initiatives.

- *Restructuring and privatization.* USAID is supporting the restructuring of the energy sector in order to encourage competition in generating and distributing energy, and in privatizing government-owned energy assets.
- *Vehicle emissions.* USAID is encouraging the active participation of important stakeholders in the design and implementation of a nationwide vehicle safety inspection and emissions testing system.
- *Renewable energy.* USAID is building the capability of the private sector to electrify rural areas with renewable energy and to encourage local communities to participate in planning and carrying out activities to help ensure the sustainability of renewable energy investments.
- *Communication strategy.* USAID is helping our partners and civil society strengthen their ability to advocate for improved policies dealing with restructuring the power sector, reducing vehicle emissions and promoting renewable energy.

U. S. Agency for International Development
Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20523-0016
(202) 647-8440; Website: www.usaid.gov

U.S. Agency for International Development
Philippines Mission, 8th Floor, PNB Financial Center,
Roxas Boulevard 1308 Pasay City
Tel. (632) 552-9800; 552-9900
Fax (632) 551-9297
Website: www.usaid-ph.gov

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